

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sealing member for sealing a toner
discharge opening of a toner accommodating container
detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus,
5 said sealing member comprising:

a locking portion for being locked with a
portion to be locked provided in said image forming
apparatus, said locking portion being adapted to
displace with a relative closing movement relative to
10 said portion to be locked,

wherein said toner discharging opening is
brought into an open state from a closed state by
relative to movement of said sealing member relative
to said toner accommodating container with said
15 locking portion being in engagement with said portion
to be locked; and

a releasing force receiving portion for
receiving from said image forming apparatus a
releasing force for releasing engagement between said
20 locking portion and said portion to be locked by
displacing said locking portion.

2. A sealing member according to Claim 1,
further comprising a locking force receiving portion
25 for receiving from said image forming apparatus a
locking force for locking said locking portion with
said portion to be locked by displacing said locking

portion, wherein when said locking force is released, said locking portion restores to its original position.

5 3. A sealing member according to Claim 2,
wherein said sealing member has a cylindrical portion
at its end, said cylindrical portion has a locking
projection provided with said locking portion and said
locking force receiving portion, and a releasing
10 projection provided with said releasing force
receiving portion.

 4. A sealing member according to Claim 3,
wherein a region of said cylindrical portion in which
15 said locking projection and said releasing projection
are provided is elastically deformable by said locking
force and said releasing force.

 5. A sealing member according to Claim 4,
20 wherein said cylindrical portion has a slit at each of
sides of said region with respect to a circumferential
direction of said cylindrical portion, said slit being
extended to a free end of said cylindrical portion.

25 6. A sealing member according to Claim 5,
wherein said locking projection is disposed closer to
a free end of said cylindrical portion than said

releasing projection.

7. A sealing member according to Claim 6,
wherein when said releasing projection does not
5 receive said releasing force, said releasing
projection is more outward than said locking
projection.

8. A sealing member according to Claim 7,
10 wherein a width of said locking projection measured in
a circumstantial direction of said cylindrical portion
is larger than a width of said releasing projection
measured in the circumferential direction.

9. A sealing member according to Claim 7,
15 wherein said locking projection and said releasing
projection are provided at an outer surface of said
cylindrical portion.

10. A sealing member according to Claim 9,
20 wherein said locking projection and said releasing
projection are tapered at its outer surface.

11. A sealing member according to Claim 1 or 9,
25 further comprising an engaging portion engageable with
a portion to be engaged of said toner accommodating
container, wherein said engaging portion of said

sealing member is slidable relative to said portion to be engaged of said toner accommodating container while maintaining engagement with said portion to be engaged between an opening position where said toner discharge opening is open and a closing position where said toner discharge opening is closed.

12. A sealing member according to Claim 11, wherein after said toner discharge opening is brought into the closed state to the open state, said locking portion is relatively moved away from said portion to be locked with said releasing force receiving portion receiving a releasing force.

13. A sealing member according to Claim 12, further comprising a driving force receiving portion for receiving from said image forming apparatus a driving force for feeding toner in said toner accommodating container toward said toner discharge opening with said toner discharge opening being in the open state, wherein said driving force is transmitted from said engaging portion to said portion to be engaged.

14. A sealing member according to any one of Claims 11-13, further comprising a plugging force receiving portion for receiving a plugging force from

said image forming apparatus for bring said toner discharge opening into the closed state from the opening state by a relative movement of said sealing member relative to said toner accommodating container.

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15. A sealing member according to Claim 3, further comprising a driving force receiving portion for receiving from said image forming apparatus a driving force for feeding toner in said toner accommodating container toward said toner discharge opening with said toner discharge opening being in the open state, said driving force receiving portion being provided in said locking projection.

15 16. A sealing member according to Claim 15, further comprising a driving force transmitting portion for transmitting said driving force substantially to said toner accommodating container to rotate said toner accommodating container.

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17. A sealing member according to Claim 9 or 15, wherein one or more pairs of such a locking projection and such a releasing projection are provided.

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18. A sealing member according to Claim 1, wherein said locking portion is locked with said portion to be locked in a snap fitting manner.

19. A sealing member according to Claim 1 or 9,
wherein said toner accommodating container is mounted
to said image forming apparatus with said free end of
5 said sealing member at a leading side.

20. A toner accommodating container detachably
mountable to an image forming apparatus, said toner
accommodating container comprising:
10 a main body for accommodating toner;
a locking portion for being locked with a
portion to be locked provided in said image forming
apparatus, said locking portion being adapted to
displace with a relative closing movement relative to
15 said portion to be locked; and
a releasing force receiving portion for
receiving from said image forming apparatus a
releasing force for releasing engagement between said
locking portion and said portion to be locked by
20 displacing said locking portion.

21. A container according to Claim 20, further
comprising a locking force receiving portion for
receiving from said image forming apparatus a locking
25 force for locking said locking portion with said
portion to be locked by displacing said locking
portion, wherein when said locking force is released,

said locking portion restores to its original position.

22. A container according to Claim 21, further
5 comprising a cylindrical portion having a locking
projection provided with said locking portion and said
locking force receiving portion and a releasing
projection provided with said releasing force
10 receiving portion.

23. A container according to Claim 22, wherein a
region of said cylindrical portion in which said
locking projection and said releasing projection are
provided is elastically deformable by said locking
15 force and said releasing force.

24. A container according to Claim 23, wherein
said cylindrical portion has a slit at each of sides
of said region with respect to a circumferential
20 direction of said cylindrical portion, said slit being
extended to a free end of said cylindrical portion.

25. A container according to Claim 24, wherein
said locking projection is disposed closer to a free
25 end of said cylindrical portion than said releasing
projection.

26. A container according to Claim 24, wherein when said releasing projection does not receive said releasing force, said releasing projection is more outward than said locking projection.

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27. A container according to Claim 26, wherein a width of said locking projection measured in a circumstantial direction of said cylindrical portion is larger than a width of said releasing projection measured in the circumferential direction.

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28. A container according to Claim 27, wherein said locking projection and said releasing projection are provided at an outer surface of said cylindrical portion.

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29. A container according to Claim 28, wherein said locking projection and said releasing projection are tapered at its outer surface.

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30. A container according to Claim 20 or 28, further comprising a sealing member, provided with said locking portion and said releasing force receiving portion, for sealing a toner discharge opening for permitting discharge of the toner in said main body.

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31. A container according to Claim 30, wherein
said toner discharge opening is brought into an open
state from a closed state by relative movement of said
sealing member relative to said main body with said
locking portion being in engagement with said portion
to be locked.

32. A container according to Claim 31, further
comprising a portion to be engaged engageable with an
engaging portion of said sealing member, wherein said
engaging portion of said sealing member is slidable
relative to said portion to be engaged of said toner
accommodating container while maintaining engagement
with said portion to be engaged between an opening
position where said toner discharge opening is open
and a closing position where said toner discharge
opening is closed.

33. A container according to Claim 32, wherein
after said toner discharge opening is brought into the
closed state to the open state, said locking portion
is relatively moved away from said portion to be
locked with said releasing force receiving portion
receiving a releasing force.

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34. A container according to Claim 33, further
comprising a driving force receiving portion for

receiving from said image forming apparatus a driving
force for feeding toner in said toner accommodating
container toward said toner discharge opening with
said toner discharge opening being in the open state,
5 wherein said driving force is transmitted from said
engaging portion to said portion to be engaged.

35. A container according to any of of Claims 32-
34, wherein said locking projection has a driving
10 force receiving portion for receiving from said image
forming apparatus a driving force for feeding toner in
said toner accommodating container toward said toner
discharge opening with said toner discharge opening
being in the open state, said driving force receiving
15 portion being provided in said locking projection.

36. A container according to Claim 22, further
comprising a driving force receiving portion for
receiving from said image forming apparatus a driving
20 force for feeding the toner in said main body toward
said toner discharge opening, said driving force
receiving portion being provided with said locking
projection.

25 37. A container according to Claim 36, further
comprising a driving force transmitting portion for
transmitting said driving force substantially to said

toner accommodating container to rotate said toner accommodating container.

38. A container according to Claim 20 or 28,
5 further comprising a driving force receiving member, provided with said locking portion and said releasing portion, for receiving a driving force from said image forming apparatus.

10 39. A container according to Claim 20, wherein said locking portion is locked with said image forming apparatus in a snap fitting manner.

40. A container according to Claim 30, wherein
15 said toner accommodating container is mounted to said image forming apparatus with said free end of said sealing member at a leading side.

41. An image forming apparatus comprising
20 mounting means for detachably mounting a toner accommodating container, said toner accommodating container including,

a main body for accommodating toner and a locking portion for being locked with a portion to be
25 locked of said mounting means, wherein said locking portion displaceable by said mounting means with a relative closing movement relative to said portion to

be locked; and

a releasing force receiving portion for
receiving a releasing force for releasing engagement
between said locking portion and said portion to be
5 locked by displacing said locking portion; and
applying means for applying a releasing force
to said releasing force receiving portion.

42. An apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein
10 said toner accommodating container is provided with a
locking force receiving portion for receiving a
locking force for locking with said portion to be
locked by displacement of said locking portion.

43. An apparatus according to Claim 42, further
15 comprising a cylindrical portion having a locking
projection provided with said locking portion and said
locking force receiving portion and a releasing
projection provided with said releasing force
20 receiving portion.

44. An apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein a
region of said cylindrical portion in which said
locking projection and said releasing projection are
25 provided is elastically deformable by said locking
force and said releasing force.

45. An apparatus according to Claim 44, wherein said cylindrical portion has a slit at each of sides of said region with respect to a circumferential direction of said cylindrical portion, said slit being
5 extended to a free end of said cylindrical portion.

46. An apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein said locking projection is disposed closer to a free end of said cylindrical portion than said releasing
10 projection.

47. An apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein when said releasing projection does not receive said releasing force, said releasing projection is more
15 outward than said locking projection.

48. An apparatus according to Claim 47, wherein a width of said locking projection measured in a circumstantial direction of said cylindrical portion
20 is larger than a width of said releasing projection measured in the circumferential direction.

49. An apparatus according to Claim 47, wherein said locking projection and said releasing projection
25 are provided at an outer surface of said cylindrical portion.

50. An apparatus according to Claim 49, wherein said locking projection and said releasing projection are tapered at its outer surface.

5 51. An apparatus according to Claim 41 or 49,
further comprising a sealing member, provided with
said locking portion and said releasing force
receiving portion, for sealing a toner discharge
opening for permitting discharge of the toner in said
10 main body.

52. An apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein
said sealing member has a cylindrical portion provided
at its free end with said locking portion and said
15 releasing force receiving portion.

53. An apparatus according to Claim 52, wherein
said toner discharge opening is brought into an open
state from a closed state by relative movement of said
20 sealing member relative to said main body with said
locking portion being in engagement with said portion
to be locked.

54. An apparatus according to Claim 53, further
25 comprising an engaging portion engageable with a
portion to be engaged of said toner accommodating
container, wherein said engaging portion of said

sealing member is slidable relative to said portion to be engaged of said toner accommodating container while maintaining engagement with said portion to be engaged between an opening position where said toner discharge opening is open and a closing position where said toner discharge opening is closed.

55. An apparatus according to Claim 54, wherein after said toner discharge opening is brought into the closed state to the open state, said locking portion is relatively moved away from said portion to be locked with said releasing force receiving portion receiving a releasing force.

56. An apparatus according to Claim 53, wherein said mounting means includes a cylindrical member having a plurality of locking holes provided with said portions to be locked with said such engaging projections, respectively, and one or more engaging ribs engageable with said driving force receiving portion between said locking holes, wherein number of said locking projections is larger than number of said engaging ribs.

57. An apparatus according to Claim 56, wherein applying means includes a release cylindrical member which is slidable enclosing said cylindrical portion

to push said releasing projection, thus displacing
said locking portion inwardly.

58. An apparatus according to Claim 57, wherein
5 said release cylindrical member has an inner surface
contactable with an outer surface of said releasing
projection, said inner surface being tapered.

59. An apparatus according to Claim 41 or 49,
10 further comprising a driving force applying means for
applying to a driving force receiving member of said
toner accommodating container a driving force for
feeding the toner in said toner accommodating
container toward said toner discharge opening.

15 60. An apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein
said locking portion is locked with said portion to be
locked in a snap fitting manner.

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